

A group of people are rafting down a river. The raft is yellow and has several people on board, all wearing life jackets and holding paddles. The water is turbulent with white rapids. In the background, a lighthouse sits atop a rocky island under a hazy, sunset-like sky. A bird is visible in the sky above the lighthouse.

GENERATION

ADRIFT

The
Berean
Call

MAY 2012

A GENERATION ADRIFT—PART TWO

by T.A. McMAHON

NEW! T.U.L.I.P. AND THE BIBLE



T.U.L.I.P. and the Bible: Comparing the Works of Calvin to the Word of God

Dave Hunt—Thousands of readers have been wonderfully and powerfully influenced by Dave Hunt's authoritative, 590-page hardcover treatise on Calvinism, *What Love Is This?* but many have asked for a more concise analysis of "reformed" theology. After years of popular demand, TBC is pleased to announce the release of this brand-new paperback resource, designed to help believers navigate the confusing and conflicting views surrounding the Five Points of Calvinism, commonly known by the acronym, T.U.L.I.P. Presented in an attractive, easy-to-read 5x7 paperback (and "trimmed down" to just 196 pages) are Dave's essential comments on the Five Points—extracted from the pages of *What Love Is This?* and beautifully arranged for greater accessibility. Some readers may never have

heard of T.U.L.I.P. Others, though knowing that it has something to do with Calvinism, find it difficult to remember what each letter represents:

- "T" - stands for - TOTAL DEPRAVITY
- "U" - stands for - UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION
- "L" - stands for - LIMITED ATONEMENT
- "I" - stands for - IRRESISTIBLE GRACE
- "P" - stands for - PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

Quoting from the major Calvinistic creeds or confessions (including actual citations and context from the Canons of Dort and the Westminster Confession of Faith), Dave Hunt proceeds to dissect the "sacred" T.U.L.I.P. one petal at a time—exposing each of Calvin's five points to the light of Scripture as a workman "rightly dividing the word of truth." With reformed theology and reconstructionism enjoying a recent resurgence among young adult ministries and across denominational boundaries, TBC is pleased to offer this long-awaited resource at an attractive price for owning, sharing, and giving. Retailing at \$12.99 for a single book, two or more copies are just \$10 each (call for larger discounts on case quantities). The Berean Call, 196 pp.

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ABOUT THE BEREAN CALL

Seven years after publication of the controversial ground-breaking bestseller *The Seduction of Christianity* in 1985, its authors, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, joined forces on another front. TBC was formed under the direction of Dave Hunt for the purpose of encouraging spiritual discernment among those who regarded themselves not just as "evangelicals" but as *biblical* Christians. The primary vehicle for this endeavor was through the publication of the newsletter *The Berean Call*. The ministry and newsletter name is taken from Acts 17:11, in which the writer of Acts commended those in the synagogue of the Greek city of Berea for being more fair minded than those in Thessalonica—because not only were they eager to receive the Word, but the Bereans also checked it against what the Apostle Paul taught them in order to see if his teaching was according to the Scriptures. Through the publishing and multimedia efforts of The Berean Call (TBC) believers are exhorted to get back into the Word of God instead of being "carried about by every wind of doctrine," and are equipped with materials to help them walk in the truth. TBC's stated mission is to:

ALERT believers in Christ to unbiblical teachings and practices impacting the church

EXHORT believers to give greater heed to biblical discernment and truth regarding teachings and practices being currently promoted in the church

SUPPLY believers with teaching, information, and materials that will encourage the love of God's truth, and assist in the development of biblical discernment

MOBILIZE believers in Christ to action in obedience to the scriptural command to "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3)

IMPACT the church of Jesus Christ with the necessity for trusting the Scriptures as the only rule for faith, practice, and a life pleasing to God

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THE BEREAN CALL

"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so."—Acts 17:11

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A Generation Adrift Part Two

T. A. McMahon

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. —Philippians 1:9-11

The Apostle Paul's prayer for believers in Philippi is also a prayer for all believers everywhere and at all times. Moreover, it is a prayer that all believing parents should be praying for their children, especially those in their late teens, twenties, and early thirties who know the Lord. Why those in particular? Well, there are a number of reasons, although I thank the Lord for the personal exceptions. That age group is quite vulnerable to the adverse influences of their peers. Their lives are also beset by practical distractions: school, the workplace, social life or lack thereof, career choices, marriage considerations, etc., which sidetrack them from the very thing that would sustain them as they deal with the temporal issues of life.

Paul's prayer for the Colossians expands upon his intercession for the Philippians:

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. (Colossians 1:9-11)

Notice that he wanted them to be "filled with the knowledge" of God's will, "in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...being pleasing [to the Lord and] fruitful in every good work." This prayer, however, would be so many empty words *unless* those for whom he is praying desire to have a walk worthy of the Lord and pleasing to Him. The good news is that many young believers today have that desire and zeal. The not-so-good news is that too few seem to be putting forth the effort necessary to increase in the knowledge of God. Again, it could be due

to distractions, but whatever the case, it will have troubling consequences.

Without the "increasing knowledge of God," which is predicated upon reading His Word and doing what it says, a believer's walk will be hit and miss in pleasing the Lord and will be mostly unfruitful regarding good works. Furthermore, he will not "abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment," meaning that he will have no basis for *biblical discernment*.

Without biblical discernment, this upcoming generation is "adrift at sea"—heading for a rocky coast and pending shipwreck. As I have had the opportunity to speak with young people throughout the U.S. and around the world, many of whom seem to be biblically knowledgeable, I've found that they are largely ignorant of false teachings, movements, and practices, along with the false teachers who are seducing multitudes of Christians today. I have no sense of their being like the "children of Issachar...that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do" (1 Chronicles 12:32). They don't seem to be heeding the many, many warnings in Scripture regarding the prevalence of spiritual seduction and deception (Matthew 24:4; Mark 13:21-23; 2 Corinthians 2:3-4; Galatians 3:1; Colossians 2:4,8; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 2:26, 3:1-2, 3:6, 4:3-5, 1 John 2:26, etc.). They seem to be out of touch with the exhortations of John and Peter and Jude concerning those who would deceive them. They are missing Paul's cry to the Ephesian elders:

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. (Acts 20:29-31)

When the full counsel of God's Word is *not taken to heart* and *put into practice*, there is little basis for spiritual growth. Often the result is an *experiential* faith, based upon subjective feelings rather than the objective Word of Truth. Such a condition produces a shallow if not *false* faith and completely eliminates biblical discernment. Such a one cannot be like the Bereans (Acts 17:11), whom Luke commended because they listened to the Apostle Paul and then searched the Scriptures to see if the things

he taught were true. Dependence upon an experiential faith is pervasive among Christians whether they are Pentecostals, Charismatics, or conservative Evangelicals. Here are just four influences that are experientially based, major seducers of the upcoming generation: the Emerging Church Movement, the International House of Prayer, Christian psychology, and Progressive Christianity.

The Emerging Church Movement (ECM) has no official organization or leadership, although some of its adherents have "emerged" as recognized leaders and spokesmen. It is an attempt to attract the post-modern generation to Jesus through a *refashioned* Christianity. ECM leaders believe that today's Christianity has been distorted by a *cultural* Christianity. This "reinventing" was initially a response against the marketing ploys of the church-growth movement, which gave rise to what have become known as seeker-friendly churches. These churches added consumer-oriented ingredients to attract the "unchurched" to church: "positive" sermons of short duration, top-forty style contemporary music, dramatic productions, food courts, and video arcades and rock-style worship for the youth. That approach, however, didn't satisfy the desires of those young people, who were craving a deeper spiritual experience. Rather than turning to the Bible, leaders of the ECM turned to what they called "authentic" or "vintage Christianity."

Although the ECM claimed that they were returning to early church traditions, they went back no further than the rituals, elements, and practices of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. The sensuality of the images, candles, and incense, as well as the rituals, attracted scores of young evangelicals. Even biblically solid fellowships were seeing their youth caravanning to Emergent churches to experience "authentic Christianity." Bells, smells, and imagery became a powerful seduction. Altars, religious icons, and even the Stations of the Cross have found their homes in the youth rooms and basements of evangelical churches. This affinity for the experiential opened the door to further unbiblical practices and teachings, particularly contemplative prayer and the occult techniques of the so-called Desert Fathers and other Catholic mystics.

The Emerging Church Movement's commitment to the experiential in opposition to the objective Word of God eased the way for the rejection of sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Among its numerous false teachings are these: Jesus is not the *exclusive* way to God; "truth" may be found in all religions; a social gospel displaces the biblical gospel; a "restore the earth" agenda is emphasized over the eternal; and, mingled with all of these, we find universalism, visual idolatry, and an aggressive undermining of the Scriptures. (See *TBC*, 9/07, 2/08, 3/08)

Another movement, the International House of Prayer (IHOP) is the latest Pentecostal/Charismatic development that features an appeal to youth. It grew out of a series of alleged "manifestations of the Holy Spirit" dating back to at least the 1940s. Known as the Latter-Rain/Manifest Sons of God (LR/MSG), the movement initially was declared to be heretical by the Assemblies of God, but that did little to slow its growth among Pentecostals and Charismatics. The foundational LR/MSG belief is that God is pouring out His Spirit in these last days and raising up Prophets and Apostles to direct an army of Spirit-filled believers, particularly young people, who are empowered to perform signs and wonders and who must take dominion over the earth before Jesus can return. The dominionist doctrine has been a part of the so-called Holy Ghost revivals from the Toronto Airport Vineyard manifestations to the Brownsville Revival and the Todd Bentley/Lakeland, Florida, escapades—all of which drew millions of people from around the world to participate in counterfeit signs and wonders. That emphasis upon spiritual signs and wonders has continued at IHOP through its leader, Mike Bickle, and his association with the leaders of the Toronto Renewal and Redding, California's Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry.

Today's leaders of IHOP were heavily influenced by those known as the Kansas City Prophets, with whom Bickle was associated, and whose doctrines and methods came from the Latter-Rain/Manifest Sons of God teachings. One foundational IHOP method derived from the LR/MSG is the doctrine that the anointed leadership can hear from God directly, and that communication (known as *rhema*, said to be the spoken word) supersedes the written Word of God as the authority to which all were to submit. In the past, that controlling doctrine (called "shepherding") led to cult-like abuses of LR/MSG followers and is reportedly still in effect, according to concerned parents of IHOP students. Followers of IHOP defend the movement by claiming that their parents lack the spiritual maturity to understand what's taking place.

Even though IHOP places an emphasis on prayer, its "prayer techniques" border on the occult, particularly those practices that follow mystical contemplative methods.

Although IHOP's influence is having an impact on many young people of Pentecostal or Charismatic backgrounds, there is another "experiential" seduction that will influence an incalculable number of young believers who were brought up in conservative evangelical churches. The prestigious *Princeton Review*, in its survey of U.S. colleges and universities, reported that the second most popular career choice of students is psychology. It's the same at Christian colleges, where there is a focus on the pursuit of degrees in psychological counseling. If that trend holds true, the next generation of evangelical Christians will be flooded with individuals who have fallen into the trap of a pseudoscience that is far more destructive to their faith than the false science of evolution. The fact that psychotherapy is not and cannot be a science has been well documented from numerous secular sources and in the articles and books offered by *TBC*. A simple reason that it cannot be scientific is its subjective and experiential nature; it clearly falls outside the methodology that true science demands.

From a biblical perspective, psychological counseling not only denies the sufficiency of Scripture, but its foundational "self" concepts and its chief dogma of the innate goodness of mankind are diametrically opposed to the biblical truth about the sinful nature of man. That fact makes the attraction of so-called Christian psychology delusory at best and of an antichrist spirit at worst. Furthermore, there is no psychological counseling method that either addresses or deals with (or can deal with) the issue of sin. Nevertheless, that hasn't stopped nearly all professing Christian universities and colleges from promoting psychotherapeutic programs in order to attract more Christian students.

Even though most Christian schools of higher education teach some form of evolutionary development, be it theistic or atheistic, there are nonetheless a number of excellent organizations and individuals that have informed Christians about the pseudoscience of Darwinian evolution. The same cannot be said for informing evangelical Christianity, and its youth in particular, about the more insidious pseudoscience of psychotherapy. Too few are addressing this travesty while two very influential evangelical organizations, Focus on the Family and the American Association of Christian Counselors, lead the way in attempting to integrate the Bible and psychology. Tragically, this major seducer of the next

generation of evangelicals is an anti-biblical development that has set up shop and is thriving in the evangelical church.

Another development within U.S. Christendom that has drawn young evangelicals away from biblical truth is a phenomenon related to political changes in our country. More than three decades ago, evangelical Christianity was a platform and voting base for the Moral Majority and the Christian Right. Despite its inherent problems, evangelicals nevertheless hoped to change society through their own conservative political candidates. Today, there has been a drastic shift from the political right to the left. Although hardly complete, the change is nevertheless apparent, particularly among the young who profess to be Christians. Many have joined the ranks of Progressive Christians, a.k.a. the Christian Left (CL).

A primary attraction of the Christian Left is its emphasis upon meeting the needs of the poor and rectifying conditions stemming from social injustice. Although a zeal for such things is admirable, in practice and in CL teachings, the departure from Scripture is quite radical. Whereas the Bible certainly addresses such things, they are never to be emphasized over the saving of souls through the preaching of the gospel. The difference too often is a temporal need met at the expense of eternal life with Christ. The majority of the teachings of the CL leaders (Jim Wallis, Shane Claiborne, Tony Campolo, Ron Sider, among others) are at odds with Scripture at nearly every turn, from liberation theology to the "presence of Christ" within the poor (because of their condition) to a social gospel predicated upon works-salvation. Again, we have a generation that hasn't been grounded in the Word of God, and this lack of biblical discernment has made it vulnerable to seemingly good works and a motivation fueled by emotions. More significantly, it is a generation that is being deceived by a movement that has distorted the Scriptures for its own humanistic agenda.

The preceding examples are just the tips of a few icebergs threatening the faith and fruitfulness of the upcoming generation. Our hope is that you can see that we must take to heart the Apostle John's warning: "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you" (1 John 2:26). Our prayer and cry to the Lord is that *TBC* and other like-minded ministries, fellowships, and fellow-believers will, by God's grace and enablement, do all that we can to reach and to help equip young evangelicals biblically, and to encourage them to grow in the knowledge of God and in *all discernment* as they await our Blessed Hope, the return of our Lord and Savior. **TBC**

Quotable

This Is the True God

The Maker of the universe,
As Man for man was made a curse.
The claims of Law which He had made,
Unto the uttermost He paid.

His holy fingers made the bough,
Which grew the thorns that crowned His brow.

The nails that pierced His hands were mined

In secret places He designed.

He made the forest whence there sprung
The tree on which His body hung.
He died upon a cross of wood,
Yet made the hill on which it stood.

The sky that darkened o'er His head,
By Him above the earth was spread.
The sun that hid from Him its face
By His decree was poised in space.

The spear which spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God.
The grave in which His form was laid
Was hewn in rocks His hands had made.

The throne on which He now appears
Was His for everlasting years.
But a new glory crowns His brow
And every knee to Him shall bow.

F. W. Pitt

Q&A

QUESTION: I have friends who say that if you pass judgment on sin, you will be judged according to the verse: "judge not lest you be judged." But Paul judged the immoral man in 1 Corinthians 5. How does one correctly interpret Matthew 7:1? I was told about a man who "judged" a brother for leaving his wife. A few years later, he ended up leaving his wife and felt terrible for having spoken out about this man. My friend was implying that he was being "judged" for "judging" by reaping the same scenario in his own life.

RESPONSE: The Scriptures exhort to judge all things. Paul very specifically instructed the Corinthian church on the areas where believers are required to judge the behavior of others for the health of the congregation. First Corinthians 5 speaks of the man living in an immoral relationship with his stepmother and yet continues to meet with the church. Paul points out the sin in this situation and then exhorts, "For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within?" (1 Cor 5:12). If we fail to judge, we are not doing anyone a service. We are not showing

biblical love. The Corinthians hearkened to Paul and judged the man, with the result that he repented. In 2 Corinthians 2:7, following the man's repentance, Paul, with compassion, told them, "Ye ought [now] rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow."

Because of false teaching regarding "not judging," the correction and restoration that would come through biblical accountability is missing, and the church is corrupted. "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Prov 27:6).

Matthew 7:1 must be taken in context, not dragged from it. The Lord Jesus very clearly explains that we cannot judge rightly if we have sin in our own lives. Jesus admonishes, "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and *then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye*" (Mt 7:3-5).

If Jesus were telling us that no one should ever confront others about their sin because *all* men are sinners, He would not have sent prophets (also sinful men) to tell others to repent. Neither would He have said in John 7:24, "Judge not according to the appearance, but *judge righteous judgment*." He clearly wants us to make judgments. First Corinthians 6:3 tells us: "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?"

Regarding the example of the man you reference, we don't base our responses on someone's experience but ask, "What does the Scripture say?" There is no scriptural precedent for "fate" or "karma" that would cause an individual to commit the same sin and experience the same consequences. We can't know the thoughts and intents of the heart of the sinner or what choices and decisions brought him to that point, "but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (Jas 1:14).

QUESTION: I ran across some new information that rings true...about seeming contradictions in the Bible, especially with regard to Paul's teaching. No, I do not believe that Paul's words and teaching have been "twisted" over the centuries. Of course, not all of what Paul wrote was untrue (some of my favorite Bible verses are in Paul's letters), but when a few lies are peppered in with the truth, it all becomes tainted. Is Paul a tare, planted by Lucifer (God's perfect flaw) who blinded Saul on the road to Damascus, parading as Jesus to deceive Paul? I'm convinced Paul is a tare, and many will follow him instead of following Jesus.

RESPONSE: We examined the "new information" you recommend, and frankly, it is

nothing new. This is the same old twisting of Scripture to justify preconceived ideas. The teacher you cited (in your much longer letter) is teaching the same things the Judaizers of Acts 15 and Galatians taught. The reason for antagonism against Paul is evident. Paul's epistles expose the person's false teaching—therefore, Paul must go.

You say that you don't believe that "Paul's words and teachings have been twisted over the centuries." You're right, they haven't. Note that Peter said that Paul's epistles were "Scripture" (2 Pt 3:16). Before that, however, Peter had written, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Pt 1:20-21).

Paul's words, as "Scripture," were not just his private opinion; he wrote as he was "moved by the Holy Ghost." How then could he be a "tare?" He couldn't! But unbelievers have been voicing similar ideas for centuries.

The Maronite Catholic mystic and poet, Kahlil Gibran, wrote in *Jesus the Son of Man*: "This Paul is indeed a strange man. His soul is not the soul of a free man. He speaks not of Jesus nor does he repeat His Words. He would strike with his own hammer upon the anvil in the Name of One whom he does not know." Gibran's Jesus was another Jesus (2 Cor 11:4), and he drew his conclusions from a mixture of Christianity, Islam, Sufism, Hinduism, and theosophy. So, Paul had to go.

By rejecting Paul's epistles, it is not surprising to see a growing rejection of the remainder of Scripture. According to adherents of this idea, Luke's record of Paul's conversion in Acts 9 is said to portray Lucifer "parading as Jesus." Luke's account may be denied, but he plainly stated, "*The Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest...*" (Acts 9:5) [our emphasis]. There is no room for the insertion of Lucifer. To do that is to *add* to Scripture. Proclaiming this to be Lucifer in disguise denies Scripture. As on a slippery slope, the first downward step triggers many unexpected consequences.

Throughout the Book of Acts, Paul is called an apostle. Also, in the council of Acts 15, Paul is given a leading role: "Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them" (Acts 15:12).

This clearly shows that the church recognized Paul as an authoritative voice, called by the Lord as "a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15).



IN DEFENSE *of the* FAITH

BIBLICAL ANSWERS *to* CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

Is It Wrong to Want Evidence for What One Believes?

QUESTION: I was raised from childhood in a particular church and believed everything the priest and my parents taught me when I was young. As I grew older, however, I began to have many doubts; but when I asked the priest, he told me that I must accept what the Holy Father and the bishops declared. I want to believe, but the questions keep nagging at me. Is it wrong to want some evidence and even proof for what a church teaches?

RESPONSE: It is amazing how many people who regularly attend a church have accepted the illogical and dangerous idea that when it comes to religion one should never raise any questions, because to do so shows a “lack of faith.” On the contrary, questions *must* be asked, and one must not be satisfied until one is certain of the answer. Skepticism is in fact *essential* as the first step toward faith so long as it doesn’t harden into pride or become a cloak for prejudice. Gullibility is no help to true faith but is actually its enemy.

Faith is absolute and total trust. Clearly, no one nor anything other than God is worthy of our absolute and total trust and thus of our faith. Jesus said, “Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22). Therefore, whenever faith is associated with someone (pastor, priest, guru) or something (church, religion, institution) other than God, it is misplaced. Only God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent and therefore cannot fail us when we trust in Him. Only He is worthy of our total trust; and He holds each of us accountable to know Him personally and on that basis to put our total trust in Him *alone*.

Know Him *personally*? Yes. Both the Bible and common sense tell us that. Any priest, pastor, guru, or church that claims to act as a mediator between man and God and says “Trust *me*” is by that claim demanding the total trust that we are to place in God alone. Obviously, if any person is to act as the mediator between God and the rest of mankind, He must also *be* God, for no one else is worthy of our unquestioning confidence. Jesus Christ is God, who became man through the virgin birth. That is why the Bible says, “There is one God, and one [and *only one*] mediator between God and men, the man [who is also God] Christ Jesus . . . (1 Timothy 2:5).

Any religious system that demands faith in its teachings on the basis of its alleged *authority* rather than on the basis of hard evidence, and that is unwilling to allow its doctrines and claims to be examined freely by sincere, inquiring minds, should not be trusted. The idea that only an elite priesthood or clergy is qualified to determine truth in the area of religion, morals, or faith, and that their dogmas must be accepted unquestioningly, is a lie that has cost multitudes their freedom and peace of mind on earth and damned them for eternity. God himself has said to mankind, “Come now, and let us *reason* together . . . (Isaiah 1:18).

— An excerpt from IN DEFENSE OF THE FAITH (pp. 18-19) by DAVE HUNT

TBC NewsWatch

MAYAN CALENDAR DRAWS SPOTLIGHT

BAPTIST PRESS, 4/2/12: MAYAN CALENDAR DRAWS SPOTLIGHT, A TROUBLED CULTURE STRUGGLES—Because the ancient 5,125-year Mayan calendar will end on Dec. 21, 2012, global interest in Mayans has skyrocketed in recent years.

Some New Age philosophers predict the beginning of a new era of enlightenment for mankind. Others say it's a countdown to the end of the world. Although many scholars dismiss these claims, tourists from around the globe are flocking to Mayan ruins in Latin America.

But most Mayans aren't concerned about the ancient calendar, according to International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries who work among Mayan people groups. In fact, the real Mayan story isn't about the calendar at all, they say. It's about the Mayan people.

Jeronimo is one of nearly 5 million Mayan descendants living throughout Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. He was an alcoholic before IMB workers with Guatemala's Tajumulco Mam people group came with a message that changed his life. Jeronimo accepted Christ as his Savior, and soon his wife and children did the same. Then he began sharing Christ and planting churches in other villages. He also translated parts of the Bible and other Bible story materials into the local language so others could hear the Gospel.

The traditions that give Mayan groups their unique identity often are a barrier to the Gospel, missionaries say....“The primary religion is animism with a veneer of Catholicism overlaying it,” said Alan Lyons, a [mission] strategy leader for work among Mayans. “There are obvious examples of animistic, indigenous practices, like sacrificing chickens on the steps of the church....and in times of crisis, they often revert back to animistic practices instead of trusting Jesus.”

“Pray God will break down the walls of tradition that keep so many Mayan peoples from knowing Him,” one missionary said. “Pray that He will raise up local [Mayan] pastors, church planters and missionaries to other Mayan groups who have yet to hear [the Gospel].”

THEY WANT YOUR CHILDREN

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND A NEW KIND OF CHRISTIANITY CONFERENCE—On May 7-10 2012, in Washington, DC, Brian McLaren will be a speaker at the CYNKC

Conference. Other speakers include Tony Campolo, Shane Claiborne, Samir Selmanovic, Jim Wallis, and Jeremiah Wright. Brian McLaren: “I’ve been saying again and again that we need a creative revolution in spiritual formation and Christian education for children and youth, and this is the gathering that I think will bring the right people together.”

Shane Claiborne adds, “What I like about [CYNKC] is that the fine folks throwing this party are trying to figure out how we approach spirituality with young people in a post-flannelgraph-Sunday-School world.”

“The exciting ministry provided by Children, Youth and a New Kind of Christianity embodies the teaching of Jesus Christ in a new and refreshing way. The next generation is encouraged to see, appreciate and embrace other children of God as equals—all made in the image of God,” concludes Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., President Obama’s pastor.

[TBC: This is the Emerging Church merging with the Christian Left at the expense of our next generation.]

PETER SINGER HAS NO RIGHT TO JUDGE

DAILY CALLER, 3/2/12: PETER SINGER HAS NO RIGHT TO JUDGE ANYONE’S ETHICS [EXCERPTS]—Only *The New York Times* would hold an essay contest about “ethics” and make the most unethical “ethicist” in the country a judge. Here’s the story: “The Ethicist”—a feature that runs weekly in the *Sunday Magazine*—announced a contest challenging meat eaters to defend the ethics of their diet. Needless to say, the essays will be judged by anti-meat eaters, described by the paper as “a veritable murderer’s row.”

That is an ironic turn of phrase given that Peter Singer is one of the judges. Singer is a radical utilitarian who denies that human lives necessarily have greater value than those of animals. Singer believes that some human beings aren’t “persons” and thus have no right to life. He even believes that these human beings can be used instrumentally—in medical experiments, for example. But rather than describe his advocacy, I will let Singer speak for himself.

Singer is pro-infanticide: On page 186 of his book “Practical Ethics,” Singer opines that infants are “replaceable” and that a disabled baby can be killed to pave the way for a happier life for a sibling:

When the death of a disabled infant will lead to the birth of another infant with

better prospects of a happy life, the total amount of happiness will be greater if the disabled infant is killed. The loss of happy life for the first infant is outweighed by the gain of a happier life for the second. Therefore, if killing the hemophiliac infant has no adverse effect on others, it would, according to the total view, be right to kill him.

Singer supports using the disabled in medical experiments: For example, when asked by *Psychology Today (PT)* about the benefits that chimps provided in developing the hepatitis vaccine, Singer said disabled humans should be used in such research instead:

PT: Let’s take a specific case. Research on chimpanzees led to the hepatitis B vaccine, which has saved many human lives. Would you stop it?

PS: I’m not comfortable with any invasive research on chimps. I would ask, Is there no other way? And I think there are other ways. I would say, What about getting the consent of relatives of people in vegetative states?

This line of thinking would open the door for using all human “non-persons” as lab rats, including the unborn, infants and people with advanced Alzheimer’s disease—perhaps even in place of the monkeys used in the Parkinson’s experiments.

CITY BANISHES BIBLES DURING GAY FESTIVAL

WORLDNETDAILY, 4/2/12: CITY BANISHES BIBLES DURING GAY FESTIVAL [EXCERPTS]—For over a decade, Brian Johnson has peaceably passed out Bibles during Minneapolis’ Twin Cities Pride Festival, but if he tries it again this year, he fears, he could be arrested.

Through some clever legal wrangling, Twin Cities Pride, the organizers of the annual festival celebrating homosexuality, have convinced the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to allow them to exile anyone attempting to distribute Bibles or communicate unapproved messages at the event to a “no pride zone” far away from the festivities.

Now Johnson is filing a federal lawsuit against the Board, claiming it can’t banish First Amendment free speech rights to a 10 x 10 square off the beaten path, especially during a major public event in which organizers have a non-exclusive permit to use the park.

The next Pride Fest is scheduled for June 23 and 24, 2012.

T. A.'s Speaking Schedule

Jul 28-29	Calvary Chapel Kalamazoo Kalamazoo, MI (269) 388-5127
Aug 10-11	TBC Conference Bend, OR (800) 937-6638
Aug 17	Saltburn Evangelical Church Saltburn-by-Sea, North Yorkshire 01287 624221
Aug 18-19	Reddish Christian Fellowship Reddish, Stockport 0161 432 7155
Aug 22	Stroud Green Christian Fellowship Barrow-on-Trent 01494 764913
Aug 24-28	Truth 4 Youth Manaton, Devon 01929 472 484
Aug 31	Hepzibah in Marlow Marlow, Bucks 01494 764913
Sep 1-2	Newent Christian Fellowship Newent, Gloucestershire 07715 364475
Sep 15	Midwest Hebrew Min. Conference Arden Hills, MN (763) 427-7162

Letters

Dear Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon,

When the book *Heaven Is for Real* came out, I had a Christian friend who just kept going on and on about it. It bothered me. I couldn't accept it, and your article helped bring clarity. Your reply...in the [January] Q&A about the book *Have Heart: Bridging the Gulf Between Heaven and Earth* was another blessing. You underlined the most important principle—that God's Word must be our source for information. Anything else is not trustworthy. I really appreciate your insights. BM (IN)

Dear Brother Dave,

Many years ago the Lord called me out of the business world and into the pastoral ministry. At first I was excited but soon became discouraged as I began to realize how deeply compromised the Word of God had become in the Evangelical Church. I felt alone, and wondered if there were any Evangelical leaders who understood the undercurrents that were eroding the footers of our Faith. Then, someone put your book *The Seduction of Christianity* in my hands. After reading it and finding that you were

expressing my inner thoughts, I was greatly strengthened and encouraged.

I have been amazed at your depth of understanding of the real issues facing Christianity and thankful for books such as *What Love Is This?* and many others. Your life's ministry has been a rich blessing to me and helped me keep my focus where it belongs. I do not believe that anyone has had more of a positive effect on my ministry and personal relationship with the Lord than David Hunt.

Thank you, dear Brother, for your integrity, faithfulness, and steadfast loyalty to the Word of God. You are deeply appreciated. SG (IL)

TBC Staff,

Really not a question, just a comment on [the 1/23 TBC Today] email. I, too, went to Planned Parenthood in the summer of 1980, as an unsaved 16-year-old. I suspected that I was pregnant and wanted to verify that. Well, as it turned out, I was pregnant. I was shocked and still remember to this day, 30 years later, exactly what she said, "Do you want to keep 'it'?" I said that of course, I did—I knew who the father was. Six weeks later we were married and have been married for 30 years now. Our oldest son is about to turn 31, and we had three more children. Our two oldest are preachers. There have been many a time when they stood to preach [and] that question came [back] to my mind. So thankful for God's amazing, saving grace!!!! My husband and I were saved in college and your ministry has played a part in our lives since we were saved. RP (email)

TBC,

I have been reading your letter for years. Some of them are encouraging, but most of them tend to bash (judge) someone. The problem with the church today is there are way too many heads. I don't understand why the hands and feet seem to think they can direct the rest of the body. A body without a head will accomplish nothing.... The members of a body don't give orders, they receive them. They don't give advice nor do they teach. It is the head that does all that. If we were all listening only to the head, then we would be producing real fruit....I used to think I was an expert, but when I started listening to the head (Jesus) I found myself lacking and a fool. Dave, I admire your zeal to spread the gospel. Why can't you just leave it at that? Why do you have to keep adding to it?...There is only one expert and that is Jesus....I am just a member of an amazing body that only Jesus can control. Let's produce real fruit and not fruit of self....Let's come together as a body and help each other and care for each other

and let God be the judge of who is right and who is wrong. DC (email)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing...to thank you for a book I recently read while incarcerated....I am a Christian [but] I had, until recently, fallen away from my fellowship with God. By the will of God, this book, *Sanctuary of the Chosen*, found its way into my possession. After reading this book, which I first believed to be a spy novel, I found my faith in the Lord renewed. I believe it was God's plan that I read this book....I enjoy reading spy novels [and] I mistook [it] to be nothing more than that. Praise God!...By the end of this novel I found myself weeping tears of guilt for my lack of faith and the anger I had in my heart towards God due to...events in my life that influenced me to turn away from my Heavenly Father. The Lord used this book to reach out to me, to lead me to repentance. I am thankful to Him for that. I wept bitterly while asking God to forgive me for my foolish actions and my decision to turn away from my faith in Him. Thank you again for whatever part your organization played in helping me to [return to] faith in the Lord. And I thank Him for using my current situation to make me see just how badly I need Him in my life. SW (IN, prisoner)

Dear TBC,

Hudson Taylor's interpretation of Mark 11:22 [1/12 Quotable] spoke to my heart.... It is good to get acquainted with the Word of God at an early age. Nowadays there seems to be a softening, altering, and leaving out of terms, if not Babylonization in diverging versions (Psalm 32:8). It's refreshing every month to read your newsletter....Thank you! MB (Germany)

Dear Staff,

I love your website! I just recently discovered it. This weekend I am planning to "clean house" and get rid of a number of questionable books on my bookshelf that I did not realize were questionable. And the articles on "Temporal Delusion" really shed some light on the different belief systems that I have come into contact with for years, yet could never really sort out. *Thank you!!* JW (email)

Dear Mr. McMahon,

A week ago, my mother handed me the latest issue of the *The Berean Call* to read. Without looking at it, I set it on my kitchen table and left to run errands. As I was returning to my car at my first stop, a door of the car next to mine opened. "Excuse me," said a woman. "Would you mind if I asked you a question?"

“Sure,” I replied.

“Do you know anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing?” asked the woman. “We’re starting a Bible study in American Sign Language.”

My ears perked up. A year ago, I took an American Sign Language (ASL) class, but have not had the chance to do much with it since. A Bible study in ASL sounded like the perfect chance to refresh my knowledge of ASL and meet other believers. However, as I got the information about the “Bible” study and talked to the woman, it dawned on me that this “Bible” study was through the Jehovah’s Witness cult. My knowledge of Jehovah’s Witnesses is limited, so I did not attempt a debate. I accepted the info about the “Bible” study and finished the rest of my errands.

Home again, I fixed lunch, picked up *The Berean Call*...and nearly choked on my food to see your informative article on Jehovah’s Witnesses. Now I have a simple way to witness to them when the Lord

puts them in my path. Even though I read your article after my encounter with the Jehovah’s Witnesses, I know that God has a reason for it. Time after time He has taken difficult or bad circumstances in my life and worked them out for good. For some reason, He did not mean for me to witness to the Jehovah’s Witnesses that day but to be prepared in the future.

Your November 2011 article “God’s Plan for the Clueless” was also a blessing to me. Right now I’m in a season of life where, at the age of 28, I feel stuck where career, ministry, and social life are concerned. It was comforting to read about how God took a bunch of seemingly unrelated events in your life to work them out for His glory. We serve the same God, and I have faith that God will work everything out in my life. It seems like every day that He shows me how His ways are perfect, and that He, *not I*, knows what is best. What a wonderful, amazing God He is!! Keep up the good work. KC (IN)

TBC Notes

Dave Update

Greetings from Dave. He sends his warmest thanks for the many kind letters, cards, and phone calls, which cheer his day. He continues in a nearby facility staffed by kind and efficient caregivers. I continue to spend all day, every day, with Dave.

Next month will mark the 62nd anniversary of our God-blessed marriage. We and all our fellow pilgrims can rejoice in the promise that “the eternal God is [our] refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deuteronomy 33:27).

Affectionately,
DAVE & RUTH

Evangelicals’ Collapsing Cultural Influence [Excerpts]

BY DAVID FRENCH (MARCH 14, 2012)

[TBC: Here is a valid critique from a conservative (not Christian) publication. The evangelical writer offers a pertinent analysis and rebuke of decades of evangelical activism and social gospel marketing.]

On a day when many evangelicals are perhaps flexing their political muscles in the aftermath of their decisive votes in Alabama and Mississippi, it’s worth pondering whether evangelicals’ actual cultural (rather than political) influence is waxing or waning. I came across insightful and disturbing discussions by Yuval Levin and Ross Douthat. Surveying the devastating decline in marriage and other critical social markers in the working class, [Political Analyst and Academic] Levin notes the failure of social conservatism outside the political sphere:

In our time, American social conservatism has much to be proud of as a movement for justice: Social conservatives devote themselves to the pro-life cause, to human rights, and to the plight of the poor abroad. But American social conservatism has almost entirely lost interest in the cause of order—in standing up for clean living, for self-discipline and restraint, for resisting temptation and meeting basic responsibilities. The institutions of American Christianity—some of which would actually stand

a chance of being taken seriously by the emerging lower class—are falling down on the job, as their attention is directed to more exciting causes, in no small part because the welfare state has overtaken some of their key social functions.

As a lifelong evangelical, let me add my whole-hearted agreement. During my years in the pews, I’ve witnessed a moral collapse—and a corresponding collapse in positive influence over the real lives not just of our fellow congregants but also of our fellow citizens in need. Of course it’s difficult to present a compelling witness when our own practices and lifestyle are often indistinguishable from the larger culture, but the problems get more specific. Here are three:

1. We are more focused on meeting the material needs of the poor than their spiritual needs. Spend much time in the evangelical community, and you’ll soon learn that the old-fashioned Gospel-focused mission trip is largely a thing of the past. Now, you go build schools. Now, you go dig water wells. Now, you repair houses. These are worthy goals, all, but service projects by themselves don’t change hearts and minds, they often make (frequently) self-inflicted misery more bearable. Service must be accompanied by intentional, vocal evangelism and discipling.

2. We go on sinning so that grace may abound. The secular stereotype of the modern evangelical—as a judgmental moralizer—is so wrong as to be laughable. Everywhere you go, preachers reject this model entirely, emphasizing, for example,

“divorce recovery,” therapy, and treatment for the consequences of sin. Again, these are worthy things, but Christ and the Apostle Paul also emphasized holiness and discipline. How often has your church actually disciplined adulterers? How often have you intervened in the life of a friend before they made devastating mistakes? Our desire to be liked trumps all, and suffering is the result.

3. We church-shop, seeking to meet our needs rather than serving the church. Church-switching is pernicious. Not only does the church “market” breed selfishness, it also makes pastors market-oriented. As you survey church after church, each doing things their own way, ask yourself, which of these church institutions will still be present and viable in 50 years? Or 100 years? Or 1,000?

I once heard it said that following the social and political disruptions of the 1960s and early 1970s, religious conservatives decided that they had to win elections, while secular leftists decided to win the culture—and both groups succeeded. So now here we are, enjoying unprecedented influence on presidential outcomes even as our cultural foundation rots away beneath our feet. Not even the best presidential candidate will fix the family, nor will our most generous service project save a soul.

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<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/293457/evangelicals-collapsing-cultural-influence-david-french>

YOGA IN THE CHURCH: A CONSPIRACY LEADING TO STRONG DELUSION?

WE ARE THE MOST HIGHLY INFORMED and sophisticated society in history and are currently in the midst of a hi-tech explosion beyond anyone's wildest imagination only a few years ago. Yet at the same time, increasing millions in the West are buying into yoga, an occult practice that has been part of primitive Oriental superstitions and religions for thousands of years. Why is this happening? Finding an answer to that question will give us a good start toward understanding what yoga really is, why it is so appealing, and the havoc it is wreaking upon our culture.

Though it may come as a surprise, the fact is that the explosion of occultism in the West (of which yoga is an integral part) did not come about by accident. This growing obsession was deliberately planted and cultivated by a group of psychologists and physical scientists, many of whom had, as university students, their first encounters with the mysterious powers of the occult and came to believe in the reality of a nonphysical dimension through their use of psychedelic drugs. The major drug of what became known as the "counter-culture" was lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), a once legal but now illegal substance commonly called "acid" by its users. It was developed in 1943 by Albert Hoffman, a chemist at the Swiss pharmaceutical company, Sandoz A. B.

"Consciousness" became a primary focus, and soon the phrase "alternate states of consciousness" was on the lips of millions. How to reach "alternate states" became the exciting topic at parties and was the new panacea. Few even suspected that they had stumbled onto the doorway to the occult, much less the horrors that lay beyond.

Of course, the world of academia, closed-minded to anything except materialistic explanations, spoke of an "alternate reality" as though it were a newly discovered unused corner of the physical brain that held amazing potential and must be studied in university labs. The "Human Potential Movement" was born. Mankind's supposedly unlimited and untapped powers became the new hope of the modern world, bolstered by the psychologists' ridiculous claim that we use only 10 percent of our brains. In that unused 90 percent, god-like psychic powers supposedly lie, awaiting discovery.

"Ironically," wrote Marilyn Ferguson, in a key book of this era, "the introduction of major psychedelics like LSD in the 1960s was largely attributable to the Central Intelligence Agency's investigation into these drugs for possible military use. Experiments on more than eighty college campuses, under various CIA code names, unintentionally popularized LSD. Thousands of graduate students served as guinea pigs. Soon they were synthesizing their own 'acid.'"

Unintentionally? On the contrary, this devilish development was anything but *unintentional*, as Ferguson well knew. It was, as we shall see, part of a deliberate and highly secretive plan to initiate the Western world into Eastern occultism, of which the introduction of drugs to American youth played a major part. Under the influence of psychedelics, millions discovered another dimension of reality that surely was not physical. But as long as the "trip" lasted, the adventure was as real as the physical universe—or, seemingly, even more real.

It only remained to be discovered that yoga would produce the same "trip" without drugs—and yoga took off as the new panacea. I remember the mother of a 20-year-old telling me with some sense of relief and little concern, "Our son used to be heavily into drugs; but thank God he isn't using drugs anymore because he

started practicing yoga. I don't know what yoga is, but it can't be bad if it got him off of drugs!"

My reply must have shocked her: "I'm glad to hear that your son no longer gets 'high' on drugs. I'm sorry to inform you, however, that he can get a lot 'higher' on yoga than on drugs. Drugs were the kindergarten of occultism—yoga is the graduate school!"

The Role Being Played by Nonphysical Beings

The Bible declares that we are not alone in the universe but that in addition to mankind, there are angels, demons, Satan, and God—all with individual minds that think and make decisions for themselves. Parapsychologists (especially those associated with the Department of Defense and government Intelligence agencies) have been involved for years in mind-control research. Some of it has nothing to do with controlling minds through drugs or brainwashing techniques but with control of one person's mind by another person's mind. This possibility, of course, has been demonstrated repeatedly through hypnosis—even at a distance.

There is, therefore, good reason to believe that, just as a hypnotist can control someone else's mind, so the other minds mentioned above could do the same to humans. God would never do this Himself because it would nullify the freedom of choice He has given to mankind in the act of creation. It is also both logical and biblical that He would build protection within man to prevent a take-over of the human mind by any other mind. One could, however, voluntarily allow this to be done by willingly submitting to hypnosis. Moreover, deliberately entering an altered state, whether through drugs, hypnosis, or yoga, is giving permission to evil entities to take over, whether one realizes it or not.

Charles Tart, author of *Mind Science: Meditation Training for Practical People*, says, "There's enough evidence that comes in to make me take the idea of disembodied intelligence seriously." William James, one of the most highly regarded psychologists of the last century, wrote: "The refusal of modern 'enlightenment' to treat '[demonic] possession' as a hypothesis... has always seemed to me a curious example of the power of fashion in things 'scientific.'"

Anthropologist Michael Harner wrote, "A shaman...enters an altered state of consciousness...to acquire...special, personal power, which is usually supplied by his guardian and helping spirits." John Lilly, who invented the isolation tank (in which one floats in a sea of heavy salt water, completely isolated from sights or sounds of the world) that inspired the movie, *Altered States*, declared: "Some people call it 'lucid dreaming.' It's a lot easier if you have a psychedelic [drug] in you, but a lot of people...can just meditate and go into these alternate realities..." There are many recorded accounts by those who have experienced similar adventures and "possession" while practicing yoga.

Marilyn Ferguson Called It a "Conspiracy"

In 1974, a think tank at Stanford Research Institute (known as SRI), with funds from the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, completed a study called *Changing Images of Man*. Reading this important unpublished study, one arrives at the following startling conclusion concerning its purpose: to determine how Western man could deliberately be turned into an Eastern mystic/psychic. The project was directed by Willis W. Harman, who later became

president of Edgar Mitchell's Institute of Noetic Sciences, founded by Mitchell as a result of mystical experiences on his trip to the moon. The scientists involved sincerely believed that turning to Eastern mysticism was the only hope for human survival. In their own minds, their reasons were all very scientific and their intentions noble. The end, it was believed, justified the means.

The 319-page mimeographed report was prepared by a team of fourteen researchers and supervised by a panel of twenty-three controllers, including anthropologist Margaret Mead, psychologist B. F. Skinner, Ervin Laszlo of the United Nations, and Sir Geoffrey Vickers of British intelligence. The task of persuading the public to walk through this magic door leading to a "new age" fell to one of Dr. Harman's friends and admirers, Marilyn Ferguson. She fulfilled her assignment with the publication in 1980 of her groundbreaking bestseller, *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, which made it all seem very desirable. She wrote:

A great, shuddering irrevocable shift is overtaking us...a new mind, a turnabout in consciousness in critical numbers of individuals, a network powerful enough to bring about radical change in our culture.

This network—the Aquarian Conspiracy—has already enlisted the minds, hearts and resources of some of our most advanced thinkers, including Nobel laureate scientists, philosophers, statesmen, celebrities...who are working to create a different kind of society.... There are legions of [Aquarian] conspirators. They are in corporations, universities, and hospitals, on the faculties of public schools, in factories and doctors' offices, in state and federal agencies, on city councils, and the White House staff, in state legislatures, in volunteer organizations, in virtually all arenas of policy making in the country.

The [Eastern mystical] technologies for expanding and transforming personal consciousness, once the secret of an elite, are now generating massive change in every cultural institution—medicine, politics, business, education, religion, and the family.

Famed architect Buckminster Fuller, after staying up half the night reading Ferguson's *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, suggested that "the spirits of the dead" had helped her to write it. Laughing, Ferguson replied, "Well, I sometimes thought so, but I wasn't about to tell anybody."

Friedrich Nietzsche indicated that the inspiration for *Thus Spake Zarathustra* came as a form of possession. "It invaded me. One can hardly reject the idea that one is the mere incarnation, or mouthpiece, or medium, of some almighty power." It takes little thought to conclude which "power" inspired this great inspirer of Hitler.

Molding Western Minds—Through Media

Eastern mysticism has now penetrated every area of today's Western society. Children are being schooled in it from their earliest years through comic books, TV cartoons, movies, and videos that feature weird creatures with mind powers that exceed what even science fiction writers imagined a generation ago....

[So powerful is the medium of entertainment in "shifting" culture today that thousands of similar confessions of spirit-channeled material have come from modern musicians and writers alike, including Stephanie Meyer, scribe of the *Twilight* trilogy, and J. K. Rowling, who penned the *Harry Potter* phenomenon.]

This belief in an impersonal force that permeates the universe and that mankind can tap into through mystical rites is not new. It has been the underlying belief of primitive religions led by initiates, or masters, variously called shamans, witchdoctors, medicine men, gurus, yogis, etc., for thousands of years. Its utilization by heroes for seemingly supernatural exploits is found in the ancient fairy tales common to all cultures.

Nor has our modern world, with its worship of science, been able to escape the myths that seem to be embedded in human consciousness—again, seen planted there by the Serpent's promise of godhood to Eve. The shift in consciousness to which Marilyn Ferguson referred has spawned two major developments, both related to yoga, though the connection may not be apparent to most readers without further explanation:

1. In general, children (and even adults) no longer look upon the fantastic powers exhibited by heroes or their evil enemies in videos and movies as fiction but as something to which they could attain as well if they only knew the secret. No one needs God anymore, because each person has the same God-powers within—it's only a matter of learning how to master them. [Even Christians fall prey to this idea, enrolling in "Schools of Supernatural Ministry" which train believers how to "access the heavenly realm" and bring its "wonders" to earth.]
2. The Serpent's promise to Eve in the Garden that she could become one of the gods is no longer viewed as a seductive lie that destroyed the human race in separating it from God and bringing His judgment. It has become the new truth, realized by fictional characters who are the new heroes to replace David who defeated Goliath, Daniel who came through the lions' den unscathed—and even God himself.

An entire genre of "fiction as truth" as well as TV cartoons by the dozens...have made Eastern mysticism the normal way of thinking. This is a change in consciousness [a "paradigm shift"]—and its possible consequences for the future are alarming!

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3

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THE MARVELOUS CHICKEN EGG

—excerpted from *The Evolution of a Creationist*

[*The Evolution of a Creationist*] is a condensation and simplification of more than thirty years of studies that moved me from unquestioning belief in Darwinian evolution to undoubting trust in the special six-day creation by God as presented in the biblical account. It is my conviction that a simple discussion of the major questions in the creation/evolution controversy is needed for those men and women who have little or no background in science. Thus, I have attempted to address pertinent issues as simply as possible—fully recognizing that those who have studied intensively in specialized areas of science may accuse this book of being too simplistic. The book touches on the evolution of a creationist (me), but emphasizes the inherent conflicts between evolutionary theory and the Bible. This work is a compilation of thoughts and writings that God used to change my belief system, my worldview. — JOBE MARTIN

A fertilized chicken egg is a very special creation. Before even thinking about a chick developing in an egg, it is interesting to ponder how the chicken manages to get a shell around that slippery, raw, fertilized egg. It is a rare sight on the farm to see raw egg smeared on the outside of the shell.

Have you ever attempted to put an egg back into its shell after it rolled off the counter?

The shell itself is highly specialized. Each chicken egg shell has about 10,000 tiny holes or pores. How does that chicken form a shell around a soft, messy egg and design the shell to have porosity? Put a raw egg in warm water and soon you will see tiny bubbles floating up. These bubbles are escaping through the pores in the shell. The developing chick needs these pores to breathe. Evolution basically says that when a need arises in an organism, mindless, random chance processes provide exactly, precisely and specifically what the organism needs to alter and improve it so that it will survive.

How does a chicken know it needs to make a shell with porosity, and how would mindless evolution manufacture such a shell? The chick does not know it needs the holes in the shell to breathe until it dies for lack of air. Of course, dead chicks cannot evolve!

Within the first few days after the egg is laid, blood vessels begin to grow out of the developing chick. Two of these attach to the membrane under the egg shell and two attach to the yolk. By the fifth day, the tiny heart is pumping blood through the vessels. What makes those blood vessels grow out of the chick, and how do they know where to go and to what to attach? The chick feeds from the yolk with the yolk vessels and breathes through the membrane vessels. If any of these vessels do not grow out of the chick or attach to the correct place, the chick will die.

The chick gives off carbon dioxide and water vapor as it metabolizes the yolk. If it does not get rid of the carbon dioxide and water vapor, it will die of gaseous poisoning or drown in its own wastewater. These waste products are picked up by the blood vessels and leave through the pores in the eggshell.

What evolutionary chance happening provided for all of these crucial advancements?

By the nineteenth day, the chick is too big to get enough oxygen through the pores in the shell. It must do something or die. How does it know what to do next? By this time, a small tooth called the “egg-tooth” has grown onto its beak. It uses this little tooth to peck a hole into the air sack at the flat end of the egg. When you peel a hard-boiled egg you notice the thin membrane under the shell and the flattened end of the egg. This flattened end, which looks like the hen did not quite fill up her egg shell, is the air sack. The air sack provides only six hours of air for the chick to breathe. Instead of relaxing and breathing deeply, with this new-found supply of air, the chick keeps pecking until it breaks a small hole through the shell to gain access to outside air in adequate amounts.

On the twenty-first day, the chick breaks out of the shell. If one step in the development of the chick is missing or out of order, the chick dies.* Timing is absolutely crucial!

Each step in the development of the chick defies evolutionary logic. The process must be orchestrated by God, our Creator. The impersonal plus time plus chance is not an adequate explanation for the wondrous complexities of life as we observe it. There had to be a Designer and His name is the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1; Colossians 1; Hebrews 1).

*Bob Devine, *God In Creation* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1982), pp. 9-13. This booklet discusses ten of God’s creations and shows how they could not have evolved.

Jobe Martin will be a featured speaker at TBC’s 2012 Summer Bible Conference in Bend, Oregon, August 10-11. His book, *The Evolution of a Creationist*, is a powerful personal testimony and wonderful summary of evidence for creation. He is also the producer of two fascinating DVD series which document the fingerprints of God evident in the many miracles of life on earth.



The miracle of life is evident to all who have observed the “simple” example of a chick hatching from its egg after just 21 days; a marvelous testimony to a Master Designer!

NEW! PARTS 2 AND 3 of CREATION PROCLAIMS A JOBE MARTIN VIDEO SERIES



Vol 1: Climbers and Creepers

Biblical Discipleship Ministries—Join Dr. Jobe Martin and Dan “The Animal Man” on a wild animal adventure. You’ll come face-to-face with some of the world’s most fascinating creatures—they are ferocious, mysterious, and at times hilarious. In *Climbers and Creepers*, you’ll discover how creation proclaims the character, majesty, power, and glory of our Creator/God. Ages: Great for the entire family. 50 min.

DVD190 Retail \$17.99 wt .2 \$17.50



Vol 2: Flight and Spike

Biblical Discipleship Ministries—Dr. Jobe Martin and Dan “The Animal Man” Breeding take you on a spectacular journey from deep inside the earth, to jungles and deserts, to the farthest reaches of space. You’ll discover how creation is proclaiming the character, majesty, power and glory of our Creator/God through: owls, bats, dinosaurs, porcupine, lizards and many more of God’s great creatures. 80 min.

DVD312 Retail \$17.99 wt .2 \$17.50



Vol 3: Silent Hunters

Biblical Discipleship Ministries—Your whole family will enjoy this hour-long DVD (plus another hour of bonus features!) where you’ll join Dr. Jobe Martin and Dan “The Animal Man” on a wild animal adventure. You’ll come face-to-face with some of the world’s most fascinating creatures – including archerfish, boa constrictors, pythons, rattlesnakes and more. In each creature feature, you’ll learn how God is reaching out to mankind by making Himself known in unmistakable ways. 60 min.

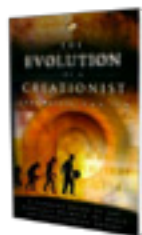
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SET93

Get the complete Creation Proclaims series and share with family and friends! — Retail \$53.97

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MORE RESOURCES FROM JOBE MARTIN



The Evolution of a Creationist

Martin—A fun and fascinating look at the wonders of creation that led this former hardcore Darwinian evolutionist to a firm, unwavering faith in the God of the Bible. Jobe Martin describes his conflict between the Bible and the evolutionary beliefs he was entrenched in. The incredible creatures he studied led him to a determination that they had to have been created by a designer. You will delight in the exciting conclusion that the Bible is true—it can be trusted, not only in the realm of creation, but in all other areas as well. MMII Biblical Discipleship Publishers, 320 pp.

B00009 wt 0.8 \$9.00



Incredible Creatures series

Exploration Films—The Incredible Creatures That Defy Evolution Series

presents powerful evidence that proves that animal designs can only be attributed to a Creator. They cannot possibly be explained by evolution. These programs will inspire you to look more closely at the world around you. Three volumes.

DVD049 Volume 1 — 1 DVD wt 0.3 \$20.00
 DVD065 Volume 2 — 1 DVD wt 0.3 \$20.00
 DVD090 Volume 3 — 1 DVD wt 0.3 \$20.00

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DVD091 Incredible Creatures set wt .8 \$50.00

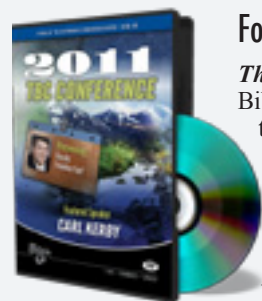
NEW DVD! HUMAN EVOLUTION: FROM IDA TO US, WHAT ARE THE FACTS?



Human Evolution: From Ida to Us, What Are the Facts?

The Berean Call—Fun-loving but formidable apologist Carl Kerby begins this talk emphasizing the phrase “God said!” which is used in Scripture 46 times. What did God say? In Genesis 1:26 it says: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....” What does the world say? The world says we were created from a progression of apes evolving into man. In this talk, Carl investigates Ida, the supposed missing link to human evolution. Is Ida link or lemur? Kerby challenges his audience with this assignment: “We’re going to set aside our preconceived ideas and follow the observable evidence to its logical, testable, conclusion.” Just like Bereans testing everything from the truth of scriptures, viewers are encouraged to critically observe and consider all the facts in this exciting talk—proving again that man was created by God. 53 min.

DVD223 Retail \$12.99 wt .2 \$12.50



Fossils: Friend or Foe?

The Berean Call—Featured at TBC’s 2011 Summer Bible Conference, this entertaining talk will challenge the belief that the fossil record supports the teaching of millions of years of evolution. A proper understanding of what the “evidence” shows in the fossil record is vital to having biblical answers in today’s world. In his fast-paced and quick-witted style, Carl Kerby explains how bias and worldviews affect the way that we see the world around us. 58 min.

DVD222 Retail \$12.99 wt .2 \$12.50

Two or more copies of the same title — just \$10.00 each!

A GENERATION ADRIFT RESOURCES FOR BIBLICAL RESCUE & RESPONSE

In many ways, the resources on this page serve as a "State of the Union" and "State of the Church" address to American Christians. They offer a first-hand field report on the tactics of our enemy, and reveal the degree to which our nation, schools, and Christian institutions have been infiltrated by the "wiles of the devil." They are presented here not as a call to Christian activism (which we see as a primary distraction counterproductive to the gospel), but to sound—as Dave has often declared—"an urgent call to a serious faith."

It should be understood that some books and DVDs are offered to provide a "big picture" perspective on matters impacting the entire body of Christ. With this in mind, the fact that an author or video producer may choose to quote or interview a particular teacher with whom we have doctrinal differences does *not* mean that we support all that the source teaches. As always, we encourage our readers (and viewers) to be Bereans regarding all the material that we present or offer as a resource.



Already Gone: Why Your Kids Will Quit Church and What You Can Do to Stop It

Ham/Beemer—If you look around in your church today, two-thirds of the young people who are sitting among us have already left in their hearts; soon they will be gone for good. This is the alarming conclusion from a study Answers in Genesis commissioned from America's Research Group. The results may unnerve you—they may shake long-held assumptions to the core—but these results need to be taken seriously by the church. *Already Gone* reveals: Why America's churches have lost an entire generation of believers. The views of 1,000 twenty-somethings, solidly raised in the church but no longer attending—and their reasons why. Master Books, 172 pp.

B15297 Retail \$12.99 wt .5 **\$12.50**



Already Compromised

Ham/Hall—A stunning revelation about the nation's Christian colleges! Apologetics powerhouse Ken Ham teams with Dr. Greg Hall for an eye-opening assessment of 200 Christian colleges and universities from across America. During the unprecedented 2010 study by Britt Beemer's America's Research Group (ARG), these colleges were polled on core faith questions...and the results are revealing and shocking! Examine the beginnings of the Ivy League schools and their now forgotten purpose at their formation. Observe the views, responses, and answers to basic questions from these Christian colleges that will surprise and alarm you. Master Books, 238 pp.

B16073 Retail \$13.99 wt .6 **\$13.50**

SET94 A Generation Adrift book set - \$6.98 off retail wt 1.1 **\$20.00**



IndoctriNATION: Public Schools and the Decline of Christianity in America

Gunn Productions—A homeschool father takes his family on a cross-country "field trip" (in a converted school bus!) to interview pastors, teachers, parents, students, and Christian administrators about their experiences with public education. Revealing insights, statistics, and testimony will spark long-overdue discussion for how believers should train up their children in these increasingly perilous times. "Every church in America should show *IndoctriNation*. Every Christian should show *IndoctriNation* to their friends" (Ted Baehr, MovieGuide). "A mass exodus from government schools is the only way to preserve the souls and minds of our children" (Cal Thomas). 102 min.

DVD315 Retail \$19.95 wt .2 **\$18.50**



Agenda: Grinding America Down

Bowers—When Idaho Legislator Curtis Bowers wrote a "letter to the editor" about the drastic changes in America's culture, it became the feature story on the evening news, people protested at the Capitol, and for weeks the local newspapers were filled with responses. He realized then...he'd hit on something. Ask almost anyone and you'll hear, "Communism is dead! The Berlin Wall came down." Though the word communism isn't used anymore, this film will show the ideas behind it are alive and well. Join Bowers for a fascinating look at the people and groups that have successfully targeted America's morality and freedom in their effort to grind America down. 93 min.

DVD314 Retail \$18.00 wt .2 **\$17.50**

SET95 A Generation Adrift DVD set - \$7.95 off retail wt .4 **\$30.00**



Temporal Delusion

McMahon—If you seek to understand current church trends in the light of God's revealed and perfect Word, you'll find this easy-to-read volume both helpful and heart-pricking concerning the true state of the church today. In the process, you'll discover that what you believe about "controversial" Last Days doctrines should indeed impact the direction and focus of our daily Christian walk—encouraging and equipping us to "redeem the time." The Berean Call, 158 pp.

B60712 wt .8 **\$12.50 SALE \$10.00**



The Emerging Apostasy

Hunt/McMahon—In this 24-session series from *Search the Scriptures Daily* Radio, Dave and Tom discuss the "pros and cons" along with the "ins and outs" of the latest movement to take the evangelical church by storm. Listeners will get an introduction to various leaders of the movement and how postmodernism is impacting Christian "conversation" as well as Bible interpretation. Available on seven CD-audio discs or one MP3 CD. The Berean Call, 9 hours.

CD136 wt .7 **\$28.00 SALE \$20.00**
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MAY 2012

SAVE THE DATE! TBC 2012 CONFERENCE SET FOR AUGUST 10 - 11



BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WE'RE JUST 15 WEEKS AWAY from another exciting, edifying, Spirit-filled time of fellowship right here in beautiful Bend, Oregon! We hope and pray that you will be able to join us—along with many others in the TBC family of readers—at our 2012 conference, on Friday and Saturday, August 10-11. In faith and by God's great grace, admission is FREE once again this year, but we must ask that you please pre-register. Confirm your reservation now online at www.thebereancall.org (click on "conference") or call us toll-free at 1-800-937-6638.

FEATURED CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:



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